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Identical letters dated 19 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of the highly alarming and sinister remarks made by two senior members of the Iranian leadership threatening the State of Israel in the most offensive of terms.

Last week, on Saturday, 16 February, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported that Commander-General Muhammad Ali Jafari of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps wrote in a letter to Hizbullah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, "I am convinced that Hizbullah's might is increasing with every passing day and that in the near future, we will witness the disappearance of this cancerous growth called Israel".

Later the same day, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran, Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, said in his own letter to Nasrallah, "the hero-breeding land of Lebanon ... will nurture hundreds and thousands of such heroes ... and that combatants of the Lebanese and Palestinian Islamic resistance will continue the struggle until the complete destruction of the Zionist regime and liberation of the entire Islamic land of Palestine".

I remind you that this is not the first time that members of the Iranian establishment have publicly threatened the State of Israel. Moreover, these remarks, as reported by official news agencies in Iran, represent anti-Israel rhetoric and racism of the worst kind. It is wholly inexplicable and unjustifiable that the leadership of a State Member of the United Nations would liken another Member State to a "cancerous growth" and predict its annihilation, once again, in blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, article III (c) of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide is explicit in its demand for States to punish and prosecute those that carry out "direct and public incitement to commit genocide".

Israel calls on the international community to condemn without reservation these outrageous anti-Israel, anti-Semitic, and racist threats, which undoubtedly constitute direct and public incitement to commit genocide.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the contents of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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